



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 10, 2006

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Purchase Order With The California Conservation Corps For Arroyo Burro Estuary And Mesa Creek Restoration Vegetation Removal

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$50,631 to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to remove vegetation at the Arroyo Burro and Mesa Creek Restoration project site.

DISCUSSION:

The Creeks Division is proposing to work with the CCC to remove vegetation from the Arroyo Burro and Mesa Creek Restoration site in preparation for project construction. Preliminary vegetation removal will increase visibility of bank and upland topography to allow construction contractors a better view of the project site prior to submitting construction bids. The extensive vegetation at the project site contributed to the high construction bids received in Spring 2005. Contractors could not easily view the work site topography and project boundaries in order to estimate costs to remove vegetation. As a result, it is anticipated that vegetation removal will facilitate more cost effective bids. In addition, working with the CCC is likely to further reduce overall project costs because the proposed contract with CCC is between 25-120 percent lower than the estimated cost for private contractors (based on the rejected bids provided during the bid requests in May 2005).

The CCC is a state workforce development program that provides young men and women ages 18 to 25 years with life skills training in environmental conservation, fire protection, and emergency services. It is particularly designed to provide underprivileged youth with job skills and work ethic for future employment and to educate them about environmental issues facing the State of California.

The Salmonid Restoration Program (SRP) is a key element of the CCC. Through the SRP, CCC employees gain experience in community improvement and environmental

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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stewardship. Since January 1980, the SRP has completed a number of stream restoration projects on the coast of California. Now entering its 25th year, the SRP is the largest and longest running program of its kind in the country and is recognized as a leader in the field of fisheries and watershed restoration. Over the past 25 years CCC technical advisors inventoried 1,225 stream and watershed miles; and more than 6,000 CCC members have invested over 1.5 million hours modifying 1,300 fish barriers, planting 1,280,000 trees, stabilizing 25,000 feet of stream bank, and installing 6,000 in-stream and cover structures. In total, 10,000 private landowners have been educated about the program and subsequently granted CCC permission to work on their property.

Many of the grant agencies that awarded funds for the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project encouraged the Creeks Division to utilize the CCC wherever feasible during project construction. As part of the grant application submittal and approval process, the Creeks Division indicated that the CCC would be utilized for project construction where economically and technically feasible. After investigating the cost, skills, and availability of the CCC, staff determined that the best use for CCC labor would be the initial vegetation clearing at the project site. By using the CCC, the City not only fulfills grant requirements and reduces project costs, but will also be part of the very successful youth training program offered by the CCC.

The vegetation removal is scheduled for January - March 2006. Once vegetation removal is completed, the construction bids for the project will be issued, and a bid walk will be conducted. Assuming completion of a successful bid process and selection of a contractor, project construction will begin in June 2006 and will be completed by December 2006.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost for vegetation removal is \$50,631. The work is being performed on a time and materials basis. There is a possibility that vegetation removal will require fewer hours than estimated. Should vegetation removal go more quickly than anticipated, the total cost will be less. The funds for vegetation removal are encumbered in the Creeks Division Capital Program. These funds will be reimbursed from grant funds awarded by the California Wildlife Conservation Board in November 2005.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager/gj

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office